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Testimony Concerning HB 5361
The Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Feb. 10, 2015
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I would like to thank The Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5361, *An Act Concerning The Use of Breed of Dog as an Underwriting Factor for Homeowners and Tenants Insurance Policies*.

I am employed by Our Companions Animal Sanctuary as a Canine Caregiver. I take care of many different types of dogs on a daily basis, this includes feeding, walking and administering medications as needed. Many types of dogs come through our sanctuary, and they each have their own unique personality. Some are pure bred, but most are a beautiful mix of any number of breeds. As I said, they are all very different from each other, despite what "breed" they are. For example we recently had two purebred Cocker Spaniels - one was extremely friendly and outgoing and wouldn't hurt a flea. The other had a completely different personality - she had bitten in the past and we had to be more careful around her. So would a breed specific ordinance include or exclude Cocker Spaniels? There simply cannot be a blanket legislation for specific breeds.

I have taken care of many Pit Bulls as well, and I can honestly say that I have never felt in danger of being bitten by any of them. They love belly rubs and long walks, just like a Labrador or a Golden Retriever. In fact, I'll admit I was more scared of being around the Cocker Spaniel!

Every dog is different. Period. Their inclination to bite or not bite is not determined by their breed, but rather by their upbringing and learned behavior.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Mandy Wieting
Vernon, CT
